



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for August 2017

Official Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force - Citizens Serving Communities: Above and Beyond

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WING TIPS

- **HURRICANE HARVEY**: SDWG sent two aircraft and five crewmembers to Texas to assist with disaster recovery operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. The aircraft were used for aerial photographic surveys of the affected Gulf Coast region helping emergency management officials assess the extent of damage and prioritize recovery operations. In addition to the aircraft and aircrews, several of our folks have also deployed. Lt. Col. Nancy McKenney, a shelter management specialist with the Red Cross, who was in Vancouver, Canada in connection with wildfires there, has been re-deployed to Texas. In addition, Lt. Col. Dave Jeffries and Lt. Col. Joyce Jeffries, disaster relief specialists with the Red Cross, have deployed to Texas as has Lt. Col. Rick Larson who is assisting FEMA in Texas as an emergency management specialist. Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich is also in Texas helping manage Civil Air Patrol operations there as well as flying photo survey missions. Although the current emphasis is helping those in Texas, the South Dakota Wing still has ample assets in aircraft, vehicles and personnel to respond to an emergency situation should one arise here in the state.

- **SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE**: On 5 August, a Wing-wide Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) was held in Sioux Falls. Aircraft, vehicles and personnel from across the state converged on the headquarters of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron which served as the mission base for the ground teams. Signature Flight Support, the building next door, graciously provided space for the Incident Command staff. The air branch carried out scenarios with aircraft searching for simulated emergency locator transmitter beacons and conducting photographic survey flights. The ground branch conducted simulated missing person searches, had the opportunity to train with Prairie Dogs K9 search and rescue teams, and received a demonstration of the use of a drone (sUAS in CAP parlance) in a search and rescue mission. The branches for communications, logistics and public affairs all got to exercise their talents in support of the air and ground missions. The geographic dispersion of South Dakota Wing units across the state makes it challenging to conduct joint operations. A SAREX is held periodically to bring together Wing elements in synergistic operational training.



OPERATIONS BRIEFING



GROUND TEAM BRIEFING



PRAIRIE DOGS SAR K9 TEAMS



QUADCOPTER SUAS DEMONSTRATION

- TORNADO TRACK:** [By Lt. Col. Todd Epp] By chance from above, on 20 August a South Dakota Wing aircraft photographed the path of one of the EF1 tornadoes that hit the Rushmore, Minnesota area the evening of 18 August. The SDWG aircraft was returning from a mission in Worthington, Minnesota and was on its way back to its home base in Sioux Falls. The photo clearly shows the path of the tornado, about 20 miles west of Worthington and just north of I-90. The photo indicates where the twister landed near a farmstead, took an arc for a little less than a mile, then took out one of two large farm buildings, spewing debris for about 100 yards or so. There were two tornadoes near Rushmore on Friday evening and one near Bigelow, Minnesota. All were rated EF1, the lowest category of twister winds. The photo was taken by C/Amn Ethan McCormick and C/CMSgt David Willison.



- AEROSPACE EXTRAVAGANZA:** Aerospace education is one of the congressionally mandated missions of the Civil Air Patrol. From 18-20 August, aircraft and vehicles brought officers and cadets from across the state to Sioux Falls to participate in the South Dakota Wing's Aerospace Extravaganza for 2017. The mission base was at the headquarters of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport. From there cadets had the opportunity to fly on powered aircraft orientation flights in and around the Sioux Falls area. In addition, cadets were ferried in groups to Worthington, MN where they participated in glider orientation flights. For many cadets, this was their favorite part of the event as it was their first flying in a glider. While waiting for their turn to fly in the aircraft and gliders the cadets took part in a plethora of activities including building and test flying balsa-wood model gliders, building and launching model rockets, flying radio-controlled model

powered aircraft and model powered gliders, flying computer flight simulators, and they received instruction in how control surfaces affect flight dynamics. Also included in the weekend's activity was a guided tour of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing facility at Joe Foss Field. We were able to see the F-16s up close and Col. Greg Lair talked about what it is like to be a F-16 pilot and showed us equipment F-16 pilots wear. Thanks to Project Officers Lt. Col. Todd Epp, Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, and C/2nd Lt Julia Lair for their hard work that made the weekend a success. C/CMSgt Annabelle Klosterman contributed to this article.



GLIDER FLIGHT PREPARATION



MODEL ROCKET BLASTS OFF



SDANG FIGHTER WING TOUR

- **LLRS WRAP-UP:** [By Capt. Neil Schmid, Incident Commander] Each year South Dakota Wing (SDWG) conducts aerial low-level route surveys (LLRS) of Military Training Routes (MTR) for the 114th Fighter Wing of the South Dakota Air National Guard (SDANG). The Department of Defense establishes and maintains a number of military training routes in the United States. Several of these routes are in South Dakota, northwestern Iowa, northeastern Nebraska and Kansas. They are the responsibility of the 114th Fighter Wing based at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls. The LLRS mission is to search for hazards to low-flying, fast-moving military aircraft. The proliferation of obstructions, population changes, airspace alterations and environmental considerations require periodic surveys of each route. An annual flight evaluation is flown to validate the accuracy of aeronautical charts.

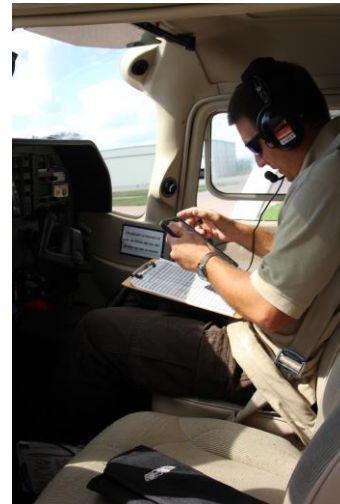
The 2017 LLRS mission ran 27 May to 19 August. Twenty seven sorties were flown with an average sortie length of 2.5 hours. The mission flew a total of 67.5 hours that covered 6,543 miles. Photos of new obstructions (towers) and noise sensitive areas are being prepared for a debriefing for the SDANG later this year.

Special thanks to project leaders 1st Lt. Jerry Hayden and Lt. Col. Duncan Kiernes for coordination and administration of the successful, on-time completion of this year's LLRS mission. Flying was accomplished by aircrew from Sioux Falls Composite Squadron (Capt. Neil Schmid, Lt. Col. Duncan Keirnes, Lt. Col. Todd Epp, 1st Lt. Jerry Hayden, 2nd Lt. Kevin Kayser, 2nd Lt. Tom Redlin, Lt. Col. William Strandell), from Brookings Composite Squadron (Maj. Shannon Hofer, Maj. E.W. Filler, Capt. David Thompson) and from Pierre Composite Squadron (Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Capt. John Becker, Capt. Richard Helton).

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew 23 aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over 11 days in August in support of the state's Department of Game, Fish & Parks (GF&P) and South Dakota State University (SDSU). Both organizations have continually ongoing research projects surveying mountain lions, bobcats, swift foxes, white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats. The result was 51.0 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 3.3 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 54.3 flight hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, 21 sorties; Lt. Col. Albert Trumble, 1 sortie; and Capt. Brandon West, 1 sortie. Depending whom the sortie supports the pilot is accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from GF&P. On 7 August, then C/Maj, Brandon West flew an aerial wildlife survey in the East River area for GF&P. Tracker Randy Johnson and Tracker trainee Jess Spencer were on board tracking deer.



GFP INTERN SPENCER, GFP TRACKER JOHNSON, PILOT WEST



TRACKING



FAWN WITH RADIO TRACKING COLLAR

- **DEPLOYMENT #1:** Lt. Col. Nancy McKenney of the Pierre Composite Squadron has been a member of the American Red Cross since 1992. As she became more involved, Nancy volunteered to go to the scenes of disasters to help out. “I recently figured out I’ve been to 25 states and 70 disasters,” she said. On 22 August, she deployed to Vancouver, British Columbia to help manage shelters for evacuees from wildfires raging in the area. “It’s a huge fire,” said Nancy. “The people who’ve already been there are tired,” so she’ll step in to replace them. This is Nancy’s third Red Cross deployment in 2017.

- **DEPLOYMENT #2:** Lt. Col. David Jeffries and wife, Lt. Col. Joyce Jeffries, of Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City, were mobilized on 25 August to deploy to the Gulf Coast to provide Red Cross support services in the area affected by Hurricane Harvey. According to the National Hurricane Center some areas of the middle and upper Texas coast could see 40 inches of rain, sustained winds of 125 mph and catastrophic storm-surge flooding. The damage could leave wide swaths of South Texas uninhabitable for weeks or months.

- **CORRECTION:** In the July Skychaser the ribbon awarded to those participating in the National Cadet Competition (NCC) was misidentified. 1st Lt. Tyler Gross pointed out that CAPP-52-4 (Updated in 2015), the basis for the new combined competition, states: NCC Ribbon - Until further notice, participation at NCC garners the “green” National Color Guard Competition Ribbon, IAW CAPR 39-3, § 20-c.



STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

- Please join me in welcoming the following members to the Wing staff:

Capt. Patrick Nowlin has accepted the position of Wing Director of Emergency Services (DOS)

Lt. Col. Myra Christensen will be Assistant DOS focusing on relations with state and county ES officers

Capt. Brandon West has accepted the position of Assistant Aircraft Maintenance Officer (AMO)



- South Dakota Wing received an award at the 2017 CAP National Convention recently concluded at San Antonio, TX. We were honored for our work with the F-16s of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing in their homeland security mission.

The plaque on the award reads: "For Excellence in Counterdrug/Homeland Security, 2017 Civil Air Patrol Counterdrug/Homeland Security Award, North Central Region, South Dakota Wing".



WING DIRECTOR OF CADET PROGRAMS

Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, CAP

- **NAT'L CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND** scheduled for 8-10 September has been cancelled due to conflicting commitments.

- **CADET HONOR ACADEMY**: A North Central Region Cadet Honor Academy will be held at Camp Ripley MN, on 3-5 November 2017 at a cost of \$35.00 to cover cost of food and housing. This is an excellent opportunity for you to learn more about Color Guard. This training will prepare you to serve on Color Guards and Honor Guards by teaching the finer points of Air Force-style drill and ceremonies. All North Central Region cadets are invited to attend this training. Minnesota Wing is hosting the first Cadet Honor Academy in the region in many years. Questions can be addressed to: Lt. Col. Braun at bbraun@ncr.cap.gov. Cadets need to go to : <https://goo.gl/forms/ESNPDwX8gRIaUIEh2> to complete the survey form.



WING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Col. Bruce Kipp, CAP

Here are some guidelines on the use of personal photos that SDWG members may have taken during their involvement with the Hurricane Harvey recovery mission. Below is a portion of an email from Lt. Col. Johanna

Augustine, the CAP Public Information Officer for the mission in support of FEMA and Texas Emergency Management regarding the use of personal photos taken during mission operations. This information is not to be disseminated to individuals outside of Civil Air Patrol.

All photos that are mission related should have been turned over to be turned over to the incident commander/ PIO. That includes pictures that allow you to clearly see the ground/flood waters, non-cap passengers, and the medical equipment.

Photos of non-cap passengers required a release from that person.

Photos of the ground where you can clearly see the ground/water must be released from the State of Texas EOC due to the fact that there could be bodies floating in the water or other issues that they don't want released to the public.

Government property photos need permission of the unit.

Incident Commander will not release any of those photos only the cheesecake shots where the scenery outside of the window is distorted.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Items submitted by Capt. Bierwirth)

- **SUI**: The squadron was a beehive of activity this month to get things squared away for our Subordinate Unit Inspection (SUI) on the 26th. All the hard work paid off as we passed with flying colors.
- **WELCOME ABOARD**: We have a new cadet, Rhianna Jones! We are pleased she decided to join CAP and are delighted to have her in our squadron.

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)

(Item submitted by Lt. Col. Gatje)

- **SOLAR ECLIPSE**: In preparation for the solar eclipse that took place on 21 August, Pierre members met shortly beforehand with Dr. Rhea Waldman, Education Director of the South Dakota Discovery Center in Pierre, for her presentation on how and why solar eclipses occur. A model of a portion of the solar system was used (with a flashlight representing the sun) to demonstrate the event. Dr. Waldman led the group through construction of pinhole viewers that could be used to watch the eclipse without fear of eye damage. Members present at the event included Capt. Jon Becker, Lt. Col. Lois Schmidt, Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Lt. Col. Tam Gatje, Lt. Col. Nancy McKenney, Maj. Marlin McKenney, 1st Lt. Ruth Carley, 2nd Lt. Ryon Skaggs and Cadet Chancey Hall. They discussed the upcoming event and related past eclipses or near eclipses they had observed.

SIOUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050, SIOUX FALLS)

(Items and photos submitted by Lt. Col. Epp and 2nd Lt. M. Klosterman)

- **CAMP CHANGEMAKER**: EmBe, whose mission is to empower women and families to enrich their lives, sponsored Camp ChangeMaker this summer. The camp educates middle school boys and girls about the many area nonprofits and how they can give back to their communities. On 2 August, these students visited the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron to learn more about emergency services. Cadets had different stations set up where they discussed how we do search and rescue, operate the radio, and other things that CAP does like color guard,

and cybersecurity. Touring one of our CAP planes was one of the highlights. Members who participated in this event were: Lt. Col. Gary Rae, Lt. Col. Duncan Keirnes, C/2dLt Jaden Roblewsky, C/SMSgt Chris Schuppan, C/CMSgt David Willison, C/SMSgt. Isaiah Klosterman, C/MSgt Peter Willison, and C/A1C Kaleb Sarchet.



- **WELCOME ABOARD:** Daniel Willison is our newest cadet. He will keep an eye on his mom, SM Amy Willison, and his brothers, Cadets Peter and David Willison.
- **NEWEST SENIOR MEMBER:** Former Cadet Major Brandon West has crossed over to The Dark Side and has become a Senior Member. He still has the distinction of being SDWG's youngest Mission Pilot. See the Kudos section for Brandon's latest aviation achievement.
- **CANARIES GAME:** Despite the Sioux Falls Canaries baseball team losing to the Texas Air Hogs 2-10, the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron color guard was proud to present the colors during the national anthem on 4 August. The cadets were able to stay afterwards to watch most of the game. The color guard consisted of C/CMSgt Kyle Kreger, C/MSgt Isaiah Klosterman, C/SSgt Peter Willison, C/SSgt Jacob Roth and C/A1C Kaleb Sarchet. C/SMSgt. David Willison helped with taking pictures.



- **WELCOME BACK:** 1st Lt. Vinnie Brown and C/1st Lt Kyle Clement have returned home safe and sound from the Experimental Aircraft Association's AirVenture 2017 airshow in Oshkosh, WI. Both have lots of stories about their experience to tell you. In addition, Cadet Clement was honored by having the coveted blue beret presented to him by CAP National Commander, Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez.

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Senior Member Promotion



Congratulations to Brandon West of Brandon, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on his accelerated promotion to the rank of Captain based on his significant achievements while a cadet.

Cadet Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Jaden Petersen of Brookings, member of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet First Lieutenant! In addition, C/1Lt Clement has been appointed to his squadron's cadet staff as Administrative Officer.



Congratulations to Annabelle Klosterman of Brandon, a member of Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on her promotion to Cadet Second Lieutenant and receipt of the milestone Billy Mitchell Award!



Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to David Willison of Sioux Falls, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Caleb Hofer of Hendricks, MN, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, and to Peter Willison of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Thomas Friedrich of Spearfish, a member of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Andrew Smith of Sioux Falls, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Owen Cole and Daniel Willison, both of Sioux Falls and both members of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Alec Crowser of Philip and Chancey Hall of Highmore, members of Pierre Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Airman and receipt of the Gen. J.F. Curry Award!



★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★



Congratulations, Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to Lt. Col. Lois Schmidt (center) of the Pierre Composite Squadron. 25 August was her 90th birthday!

She joined the Pierre Composite Squadron in 1943 during World War II as a 16-year-old cadet.

She received the Congressional Gold Medal for her wartime service in the Civil Air Patrol.

She took a break from her CAP service after World War II then rejoined CAP in 1968 and has served as squadron commander

for several terms as well as other staff positions. Lt. Col. Schmidt is currently the Pierre Composite Squadron's historian. She will become a 50-Year member in October of next year.

Lois received congratulatory messages from NCR commander Col Regena Aye and SD Wing Commander Col David Small, Jr. Many emails, text messages and phone calls were received from CAP members she has known over the years as well as many others offering their best wishes.

★ ★ THUNDERDRONE ★ ★

The Air Force is working with US Special Operations command in a drone competition called "Thunderdrone," where small drones will compete, and fight, with each other to prove new unmanned capabilities. Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson announced USAF involvement on Wednesday, saying the upcoming event will be a way to prove capabilities for small unmanned aerial systems, including swarming. The event is hosted by SOFWERX, which is inviting special operators, interagency partners, industry, and academia to participate, according to the event's website. The event, held at a new "drone test range" will include a "prototype rodeo" in November. The competition will show which will be the "last drone standing," Wilson said. USAF, along with the broader Defense Department, has been looking extensively at drone swarming. The service has an interest in following the development of small quadcopters, including through sponsoring drone racing events on national TV, said Gen. Mike Holmes, commander of Air Combat Command. —Brian Everstine

Source: Air Force Magazine, Daily Report, Thursday, August 10, 2017

★ ★ RACHEL'S BULLETIN BOARD ★ ★



Rachel's Bulletin Board



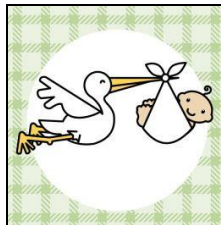
Welcome to the volunteers page. This page is designed *for you* and your events outside of CAP and to get to know each other better.

Disclaimer: This page is for fun only – it is not meant to embarrass or single anyone out. Please let Rachel know if you have any questions at all.

*****Due to lack of response the Trivia and Brain games will be removed as of this month*****



Good luck to all the returning students this year!



Congratulations to Travis and Melissa Woodard on the birth of their baby girl!



Congratulations to the Custer Composite Squadron who completed their SUI and survived to talk about it
Brandon West is a new CFI (Certified Flight Instructor). Congrats on the new initials



We are a **TAX EXEMPT** organization. We should **not** pay tax on needed items. Please ask Rachel for the tax exempt card/number. We have tax exempt status at: Wal-Mart, Office Depot/Office Max
Please let Rachel know if you would like to add others.



We Support our deployed troops

Michael Johnson (Rapid City) and David Stockinger (Sioux Falls)



Our thoughts are with our friends, family and CAP members in Texas



Admin/Finance notes:

We are Tax Exempt – Please try to remember to ask for this when making purchases
 Yellow Shell MasterCard = AF Mission
 WEX/Gray Visa Card = Non-AF Mission
 Lost receipts or missing receipts can and will be billed to members
 Rachel is there to assist you with any finance paperwork or questions



*2018 Wing Conference – Deadwood, SD
 April 13 and 14 – 2018*



Devon Brown (Sioux Falls)



1. How long have you been in CAP?

I have been a CAP member for 6 1/2 years. My membership became official on January 30, 2011

2. What is your favorite thing about being in CAP?

My favorite thing about CAP are the big activities at the Wing, Region and National levels. They've allowed me to travel to new places, as well as meet new people who have a passion for the program, and have also allowed me to form lasting friendships with other cadets all over the nation and some from other countries.

3. What type of work do you do when not in CAP?

Outside of CAP I work as a member of the Stock Replenishment team at Bed Bath and Beyond in Sioux Falls. I was also a very active Boy Scout for several years working on multiple community service projects and volunteer service events.

4. Do you have any children/pets?

Being that I am only 19 I do not have any children, but I do have a cat. A very overweight and lazy male named Franky that we rescued from the pound almost 5 years ago.

5. What do you like to do in your spare time/hobbies?

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with friends. To me surrounding yourself with and spending time with good people is essential for a happy life and makes things more enjoyable. I also enjoy watching sports and attending sporting events. My favorite thing to do is travel. Some of my best memories are of sitting in a car with endless miles of road and just driving to a destination.

6. Anything else you want to share that helps us know you better?

There isn't much else about me. I am a very hardworking and dedicated individual. Currently most of my time is spent working or spent working out in the gym preparing for a career as a member of an Air Crew in the U.S Navy.

Volunteers are always needed- same questions each month – please help us get to know you better

Do you enjoy the bulletin board? I need your help to keep it going. Know someone who would want to be our featured volunteer?

Send me their name, I will contact them for you. Are you graduating soon - high school, college, basic training, etc? Did you get promoted at work/get a new job, have a baby, get married, become a pilot, celebrate a milestone anniversary (25 years +) etc?

Pilots – do you have a favorite South Dakota airport/runway that you want to see spotlighted? Please send me your info to

wa@sdcap.us or call or text me: 605-787-2311

